

Serial No. 10/797,315
Atty Docket 67,200-640

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10 without prejudice.

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LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-10 (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A system for forming and delivering a mixed slurry for use in a chemical mechanical polishing operation, said system comprising:

a first slurry for use in a chemical mechanical polishing operation;

a second slurry for use in a chemical mechanical polishing operation;

at least one mixing mechanism for mixing said first slurry with said second slurry to provide at least one mixed slurry thereof, said at least one mixing mechanism selected from the group consisting of in-line mixing and pre-mixing in a mixing tank, said at least one mixing mechanism for providing an adjustable mixing ratio of said first and second slurry;

at least one control mechanism for controlling at least one of a flow rate and an amount provided to said at least one mixing mechanism of said first and second slurry to adjust said mixing ratio; and,

a second control mechanism for controlling a flow rate of said at least one mixed slurry for delivery to chemical mechanical polishing operations utilized in the fabrication of semiconductor devices.

12. (cancelled)

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13. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein said control mechanism adjusts said mixing ratio by controlling said flow rate of said first and second slurry according to said in-line mixing.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein said control mechanism adjusts said mixing ratio by measuring a weight of at least one of said first and second slurry according to said in-line mixing.

16. cancelled

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein said control mechanism adjusts said mixing ratio by adjusting a weight of said first slurry and a weight of said second slurry according to pre-mixing in a mixing tank.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein said pre-mixing tank comprises at least one load cell to control said mixing ratio; and

said flow rate of said mixed slurry is controllable utilizing a slurry pump associated with said-pre-mixing tank.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein said at least one mixing mechanism comprises both:

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an in-line mixing mechanism for mixing said first slurry with said second slurry in-line to provide a first mixed slurry thereof for delivery to a first chemical mechanical polishing operation; and

a pre-mixing in a mixing tank mechanism for pre-mixing said first slurry with said second slurry to provide a second mixed slurry thereof for delivery to a second chemical mechanical polishing operation.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein said first and second slurry are provided according to:

a first supply tank for delivering said first slurry, wherein said first supply tank is linked to at least one circulation pump, such that said circulation pump is operable in association with at least one slurry pump;

a second supply tank for delivering said second slurry, wherein said second supply tank is connected to at least one circulation pump, such that said second supply tank is operable in association with at least one slurry pump; and

wherein said first and second supply tanks are operable in association with at least one valve.

21. (previously presented) A method for forming and delivering mixed slurries for use in a chemical mechanical polishing operations, said method comprising the steps of:

delivering a first slurry for use in chemical mechanical polishing operations;

delivering a second slurry for use in chemical mechanical polishing operations;

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mixing said first slurry with said second slurry comprising an adjustable mixing ratio according to in-line mixing to provide a first mixed slurry thereof;

mixing said first slurry with said second slurry comprising an adjustable mixing ratio according to pre-mixing in a mixing tank to provide a second mixed slurry thereof;
and,

controllably delivering said first and second mixed slurry to a respective first and second chemical mechanical polishing operation.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said mixing ratio of said first mixed slurry is adjusted by controlling respective flow rates of said first and second slurry prior to delivery to said second chemical mechanical polishing operation.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said mixing ratio of said second mixed slurry is adjusted is adjusted by pre-mixing a pre-determined amount of said first slurry with a pre-determined amount of said second slurry prior to delivery to said second chemical mechanical polishing operation.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said mixing ratio is adjusted by measuring a weight of at least one of said first and second slurry.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said mixing ratio of said second mixed slurry is adjusted is adjusted by adjusting a weight of said first slurry and a weight of said second slurry.